

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building, Mt Iron, MN

President Kalmi called the reorganizational meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Barb Kalmi (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Jim Fisher (Town of McDavitt); Shane Hoff (City of Sliver Bay); Bob Berrini (Town of Morse); Steve Biondich (City of Biwabik); Rick Blake (City of Grand Rapids); Angela Campbell (City of Ely); Ryan Davies (Town of Harris); Dirk Davis (Town of Morcom); Cathy Erickson (City of Two Harbors); Justin Fosso (City of Hibbing); Matt Grose (ISD 318 Grand Rapids – Supt); Jed Holewa (City of Chisholm); Sheila Jensen (City of Nashwauk); Chris Koivisto (ISD 2412 St Louis County); Lisa Kvas (ISD 712 Mt Iron/Buhl); Renee Loeffler (City of Buhl); Dan Manick (City of Cook); Ron Pittman (Town of Cherry); John Rauzi (City of Eveleth); Noel Schmidt (ISD 2909 Rock Ridge Supt); Warren Stolp (Town of Nashwauk)**

Absent: Town of Great Scott; ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Jeff Anderson (Costin Group); David Leslie (Cherry Township); Don Warwas (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Andrea Zupancich**

(Names highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)

Election of RAMS Executive Board:

A motion to use a ballot for the election was made by Hoff and supported by Holewa. Motion carried.

President: Hoff nominated Holewa, Blake nominated Kalmi. Kalmi won and accepted.

Vice President: Campbell nominated Biondich, Kalmi nominated Fisher. Biondich won and accepted.

Treasurer: Biondich nominated Hoff, Kalmi nominated Kvas. Hoff won and accepted.

Approve 2026 RAMS Board Meeting Schedule:

A motion to approve the 2026 RAMS Board Meeting Schedule was made by Grose and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the reorganizational meeting was made by Davis and supported by Kvas. Motion carried.

President Kalmi called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Roll Call of Board:

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Absent: Town of Great Scott; ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Jeff Anderson (Costin Group); David Leslie (Cherry Township); Don Warwas (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Andrea Zupancich**

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Review and Approve Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Campbell and supported by Davis. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025, and the Annual Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2025, was made by Fisher and supported by Davis. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on January 22, 2026.

1. Expenditures for December 17, 2025 – January 21, 2026, totaling \$32,157.09.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 10.3%.
3. Balance Sheet as of January 21, 2026, is \$577,789.61.

A motion to approve the Finance Committee Report was made by Pittman and supported by Biondich. Motion carried.

Appearance:

None.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on some of his activities over the month of January:

- Sulfate response deadline for Keetac is February 4. It is possible that they will not respond to our comments. The impact and cost study of the sulfate standard is still being updated.
- Chaired the CBDG committee meeting in St Louis County
- Worked with CTC and Bois Forte on broadband and will host a meeting on February 11.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct forms were handed out to be signed and returned.
- A motion to approve three letters of support for Mesabi Metallics MPCA permits was made by Davis and supported by Davies. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a letter of support for congressional action on reversing federal mineral withdrawal was made by Pittman and supported by Kvas. Motion carried.
- Jeff Anderson discussed the upcoming Legislative Session along with the 2026 RAMS Legislative Priorities. A motion to approve the RAMS Legislative Priorities with some additions was made by Grose and supported by Biondich. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve RAMS Resolution #26-01 was made by Kvas and supported by Davies. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve the Letter of Engagement from Fort and Company for the RAMS 2025 Audit was made by Davis and supported by Leoffler. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

- Fisher: Paul Bunyan was outbid for broadband in his area.
- Kvas: MIB/St Louis County school districts are in the end stages of replacing their shared superintendent.

Next Meeting:

- The next RAMS Meeting will be held at 6pm, on February 26, 2026, at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building.

Other:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.